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ABSTRACT

In an attempt to encourage school attendance of Navajo children at an early age, this booklet was prepared to improve the attitudes of many Navajo parents toward education. Objectives of the booklet are to motivate parents to send children to school at age 6; to inform parents of possible disadvantages of age-retarded beginning students; to improve lines of communication between the school and parents; and to present a pleasant but realistic picture of school. Pictures of school-related activities are accompanied by textual material in both English and Navajo languages. (JH)

# DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A FUTURE?

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CORRECTION

Page 12 and page 16 pictures do not correspond with the reading. The reading on page 13 should correspond with the picture on page 16. The picture on page 12 should correspond with the reading on page 17.



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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**Mrs. Blanche Bizahaloni Begay**

Mrs. Blanche Bizahaloni Begay was born on July 24, 1920, 12 miles West of Pinon, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation in the most remote area at the time. She was the last child from a small family. Like any young Navajo child, she grew up in a hogan, tending to her parents' herd.

Her education did not begin until December 10, 1929, when she was 9 years old. All her primary schooling was at Keams Canyon, Arizona, some 50 miles from her home. She graduated from Albuquerque Indian School in 1942. She later took post-graduate courses at North High School in Phoenix, Arizona, and at the same time took night courses at Phoenix Junior College. Her studies here were short because of financial problems.

During the summer, Mrs. Begay tries to better her education by going to summer work shops or take a regular summer session at Northern Arizona University. She also has attended other institutions.

At the present time, Mrs. Blanche Begay holds the position of Supervisory Instructional Aid which involves her in many uncounted hours, overseeing children from age 5 years old to 12 years old. Most of these are children of her own community but some of these children come from the most remote places in the Black Mountain areas, some 30 to 40 miles from home. Mrs. Begay also teaches for Program Head-Start on the reservation.

The parents of these children have a great confidences in her. She talks with parents, tribal leaders, public health and other officials connected with education. Her aim is to have a better coordination between community and school for more effective education. At present she is working on a possible bus road map for the Indian Office of Interior with the education officials. It is hoped in two more years, more 5 year old children will be in school in Pinon Community area.



## INTRODUCTION

This booklet was developed as a class project by Mrs. Blanche Begay while she was enrolled in the workshop "Inter-cultural Communications in Home and Community Living," summer of 1967, Home Economics Department, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Arizona.

### SUBJECT: BILINGUAL CHILDREN WHO ARE RETARDED AGEWISE IN SCHOOL

#### BACKGROUND:

For fifteen years I have worked with my own tribe, the Navajos, in a boarding school at Pinon, Arizona. During these years I have observed the customs of my people in connection with education.

The Navajos in the Pinon area of the reservation are slow in changing their culture and customs. This situation exists in spite of the fact that we have some fine young men and women who are high school and college graduates. Perhaps the parents need a greater understanding and appreciation of education.

The census roll of the current year shows a total of 388 children, who are between six and twelve years of age, to be unenrolled in school. The total number represents the following age groups: 200 children who are six years of age; a group of 85 children who range in age from seven through nine years; and a third group of children who number 103 in all and range from ten through twelve years of age. The latter group is made up of drop-outs.

According to the registrar's office, only 60 of these six-year-old children have been enrolled for the coming year. Where will the remaining 140 six-year-olds be this coming school year? Will the 85 seven, eight, and nine year olds be in school this fall? How many of these children will remain home and, as a result, become more age-retarded for their grade level?

The greatest obstacle in getting these children in school lies with the parents who believe that a six-year-old is too young to leave home. Thus, there is a large group of children who are not enrolled in school until seven, eight, and nine years of age. Consequently, these children are retarded in academic development at the beginning level.

**PROBLEM:**

The problem is to correct the situation of age-retarded children at the beginning level in school. People involved in trying to solve this problem are the following: school staffs, tribal leaders, educational representatives, welfare agencies, and public health officials.

**AIM:**

The aim of this project is to get all six-year-olds enrolled in school at the beginning level.

**OBJECTIVES:**

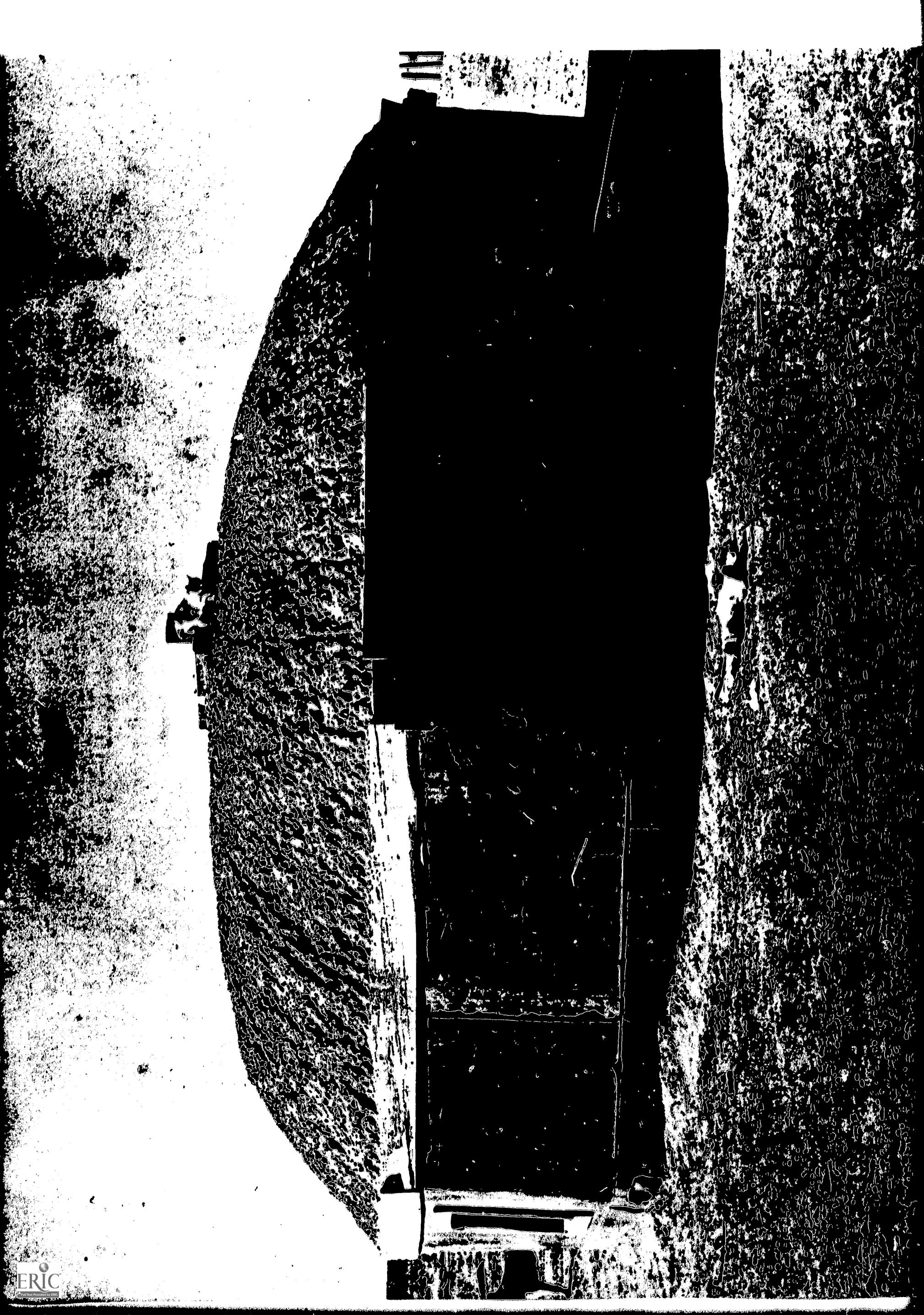
To motivate the parents to send their children to school at six years of age.

To enable Navajo parents to become more aware of the value of education.

To help parents become aware of the possible disadvantages to their child if he begins school at a retarded level for his age.

To keep the lines of communication free and open between the parents, school and others concerned.

To present a pleasant, but realistic picture of school and school activities to the parents.



Live near school and then your child can go to day school.

He can return home after school.

He will be with his parents at night.

Send your child to school early so that he can learn quickly.

Olta' t'áá bágh nihánigi naghangóó na'áł-chini jí ńta'i danilíí doo.

T'áá ákwii e'e'aah naa nináhádáah doo.

Ako bimá dóó bizhé'é yił nábiilkáah doo.

T'ah áłts'isidáá' ńta'go yá'at'ééh áko tsxíjílgó ńhooł'aah.

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Sally is eight years old.

She is not in school.

She is made to herd the sheep.

Perhaps she is dreaming of going to school.

She should go to school now.

The longer she stays home, the more difficult school will be for her.

Olta' t'sá nizaad bee nihoolzhiihgo é1  
bá nantí'ah doo.

Sally é1 tseebíí binááhái.

Doo óíta' da.

Na'niíkaadgo ábi'dílzin.

Áadóó awéé' yaa áhályéégo óólzín.

Olta' dashq' yaa ntsékeesgoda át'é.

K'ad óíta'go éí yá'át'ééh.

Olta' t'sá nizaad bee nihoolzhiihgo é1

Education makes trading easier for you. **Olta' binahji, yá'át'éehgo na'ayiiłníih**

doo.

You can tell when you are cheated.

You can read the prices.

**Ninda'alo'go nił bééhózin doo.**

**Áadóó ch'iyáán bę́gh da'ílini nił bééhó-**

**zin doo.**

**Inda béeso biyázhí nił bééhózin doo.**

You can add your purchases.

**Bíighahgo na'íiniih ahíidzoh nił bééhózin**

**doo.**

**Áadóó béeso nagháii inda nahiidooniíííí**

**nił bééhózin doo.**

You can budget your income.



Your educated son may become a leader. **Niyászh ni'niłta'go naat'šanii dooleet.**

He may be a spokesman for his tribe. **Bidine'eda yá yálti' doo.**

He will be able to speak and understand English well.

**Bilagáana bizaad nizhónígo yee yálti' doo t'áá hazhó'ó yidiits'a' doo.**

He will be able to communicate with the most educated people.

**Áadóó diné ałtaas'éí dadíits'a'ii doo bich'i' biił nahontł'ah da doo.**

Thus, he will be able to help his tribe in many ways.

**Akohgo lidine'é t'óó'ahayóógií yíká'análwó' doo.**



Mary is six years old.

Mary éí hastééh binááhái.

She is in school.

Éí 6íta'.

She will adjust to school sooner.

Olta' t'áá hodína'í yidinoldíí.

She will learn English better.

Bilagáana bizaad t'áá yéigo yihodooz'ááz.

She will overcome her shyness easily.

Yániizingé yíí, hadinbóhséélt.

She has many opportunities ahead.

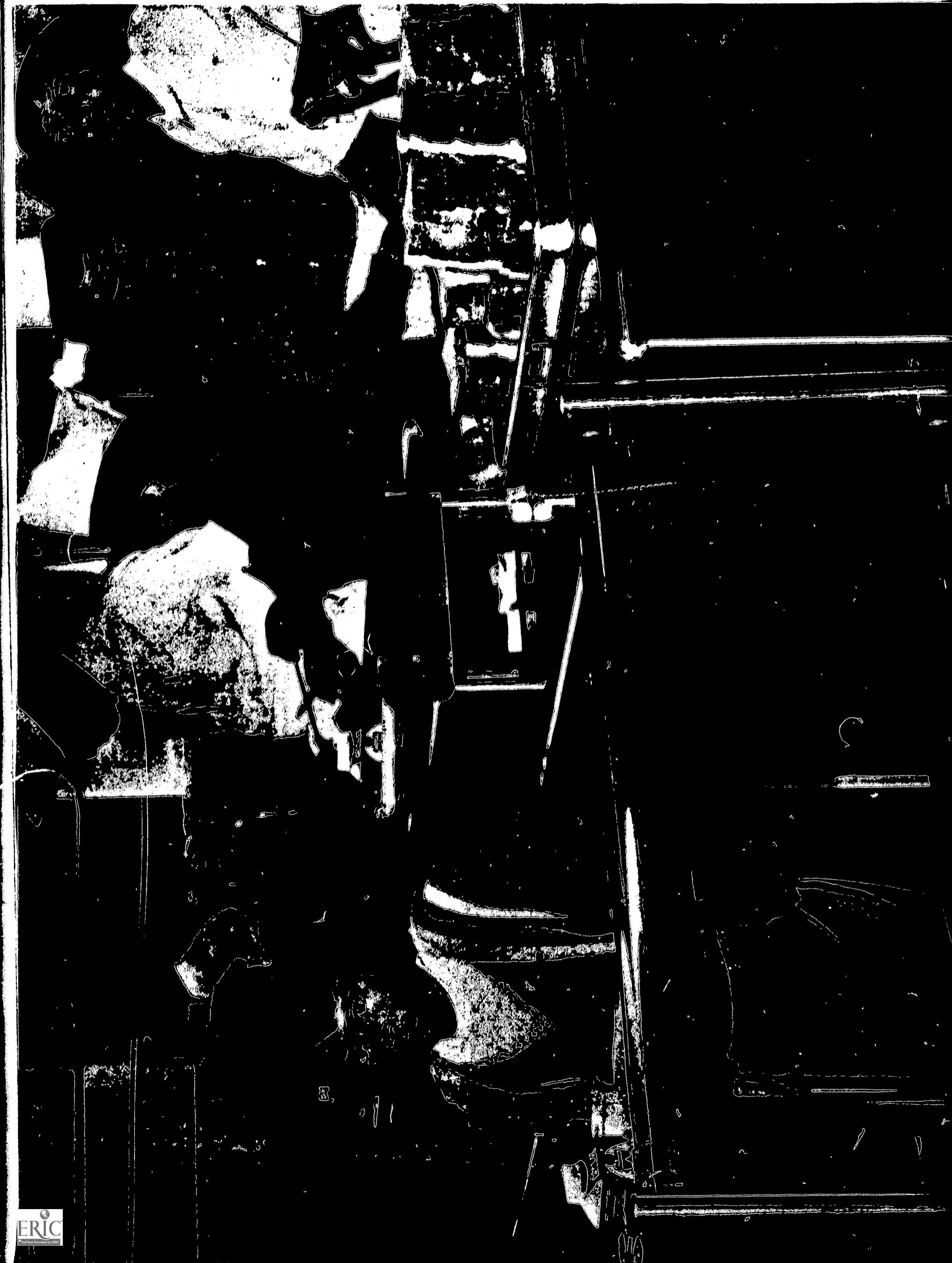
Bee da'íináani iłg'íji' bich'íj' ęę át'ée

doo.

She may become a teacher and return to help you and your community.

Bá'6íta'ída dooleezz ęędoo nihá ndoodzééz

dóó nihiká'adoolwoz.



These Children eat three meals every day.

Dif áłchini táa'di nda'adifh t'áá ákwíí  
jí.

They eat milk, bread, butter, vegetables,  
meat, and fruit on their trays.

Ch'iyáán yá'át'éehii deiyéé ch'iyáán bee  
nda'aka'igíí bikáá'dóó.

The cooks are capable.

Ch'iyáán ádeíí'iní ch'iyáán dayiichííh.

The cafeteria is clean.

Ch'iyáán bá hooghan góne' dahózhóní.  
Ch'iyáán yá'át'éehgo ádaal, t'áá dóó líkan.

The food is well prepared and wholesome.

Áłchini dabidziil dóó bíí dahózhé dóó  
naaltsoos bóhoo'aah yídaneedí.



These children are seven years of age and older.

Díi áłchini tsosts'iid dóó nówehji' bée-dééhái.

They are in the first grade.

But they are self-conscious.

T'ááhá'íigii dayééhái.

In school they will not raise their hands.

Olta' góne: doo yádadoolchíid át'éé da.

Only one girl has volunteered to recite.

T'ááhá'í at'ééd t'éiyá yineedlíigo ná'-olta'.

She began school at six years of age.

Eí hastééh binááháigo olta' jí' iiyá.

She is unafraid to talk.

Doo náldzidgóó yááti'.

She likes to talk.

Yineedlíigo yááti'.

She speaks English well.

Bilagáana bizaad nizhónígo yee yááti'.



The children learn about Christmas.

Ałčhini Késhniish yídahooł' aah.

They learn about the religious origin of  
Christmas.

Késhniish diyingo bee hahgyáii yídahooł' -  
aah.

They also learn to know Jolly Santa.

Hastin Bidágháhii ałdó' yéédahósin.

They have decorated the tree recently.

Aníidi ch'ó yáázh nizhónigo hadeidilaa.

They are now receiving all kinds of gifts.

K'ad éí áłčhiniñi báda'ílyé.

They are learning the joys of both re-  
ceiving and giving.

Aha' da'ílyé baa nózhq yídahooł' aah.

Special thanks to Miss Lillie Williams for her skill in organizing materials for this booklet.

Special thanks to Mr. Delbert Fann of Northern Arizona University for helping Mrs. Begay put her language into writing.

This booklet is a publication of the Home Economics Department, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

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